

California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Colorado River Basin



May 2019  
Executive Officer Report

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## **LAND DISPOSAL – WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS PROGRAM**

**New River Improvement Project:** On May 29-30 2019, State Water Board member Laurel Firestone, Colorado River Basin Water Board Chair Nancy Wright, Adriana Godinez, Water Resources Control Engineer, and AEO Frank Gonzalez attended the Mexicali Sanitation Binational Technical Committee meeting and New River Field Observation Tour in Mexicali, Baja California, Mexico. The meeting focused on water quality at the United States/Mexico International Border and included historical problems, efforts to address pollution problems, water quality impacts, and current activities at the border. [Adriana Godinez, WRCE]

## **UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK (UST) AND SITE CLEANUP PROGRAM (SCP)**

### **Underground Storage Tank (UST) and Site Cleanup Program (SCP)**

**UST Roundtable:** On May 1, 2019, staff participated in a UST Roundtable via teleconference, also attended by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) Region 9, State Water Board, and staff from the other eight Regional Water Boards. Kenneth Dixon (US EPA Region 9), provided an update on UST case closure goals and available grants. Open UST cases in California comprise roughly 5% of the UST cases nationwide. The US EPA set a goal for California to close 581 UST cases in fiscal year 2018/2019. Currently California is behind schedule, likely to close only 377 UST cases in fiscal year 2018/2019. Kenneth Dixon also discussed grants available to abandon monitoring wells at UST sites where closure is stalled due to lack of funds for well abandonment. The UST Cleanup Fund (CF) staff reported that the Expedited Claim Account Program (ECAP) process where State Water Board staff assist Regional Water Board staff with specific UST cases, has moved a significant number of USTs toward closure. UST CF staff acknowledged that the claim response times are an issue they are working to reduce. Regional Board staff reported that, stemming from a lack/delay of reimbursement of invoiced charges due to FISCAL, smaller environmental consulting firms have requested time extensions for due date submittals. Matthew Cohen (State Water Board), demonstrated the newest features in Geotracker and reported that State Water Board staff are developing an approach to generate “on-demand” translations of text for AB 434 [State Website Accessibility] requirements. [Joan Stormo, PG CHG, Senior EG; Phan Le, WRCE]

### **Salt and Nutrient Management Plan (SNMP) Development**

**California Environmental Quality Act Scoping Meeting:** On May 16, 2019, in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), a public scoping meeting was held at the Palm Desert Regional Water Board office to introduce a potential amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan (Basin Plan) for the Colorado River Basin Region. The amendment proposes to establish numeric objectives for aesthetic and nuisance constituents (i.e., salts and nutrients) in the Basin Plan by referencing existing drinking water standards, known as Secondary Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs). The CEQA Scoping Meeting was held to

provide an opportunity for the public to discuss the proposed amendment. Comments were received at the meeting and were accepted until May 31, 2019. [Cathy Sanford PG, EG]

## **NPDES PROGRAM**

**Pretreatment Compliance Inspections:** The practice of removing pollutants from industrial and commercial wastewater before they are discharged into municipal sewage treatment system is known as “pretreatment.” On May 13 and 14, Pretreatment Compliance Inspections (PCI) were conducted by a USEPA contractor and Regional Board staff for two publicly owned treatment works (POTW): 1) Valley Sanitary District (VSD) at the City of Indio and 2) the City of Calexico Wastewater Treatment Plant. The inspection team reviewed the POTW’s Sewer Use Ordinance section which addresses waste discharges by non-residential users, Local Limits Evaluation Report, and Enforcement Response Plan. The inspection team also inspected three significant industrial users (SIU)- a nuts and juice drink bottling company, an ion exchange tank maintenance shop and a vegetable chilling and packaging facility for the cleaning process. The team also conducted an informational visit to a dentist in the service area to discuss upcoming EPA rules for 2020 regarding amalgam/mercury disposal from activities related to dentistry. *[Kai Dunn, Senior WRCE, Ph.D., P.E and Jose Valle de Leon, Water Resource Control Engineer]*

**Seeley County Water District Wastewater Treatment Compliance Project:** The Seeley County Water District submitted its first quarterly progress report on May 1, 2019.

The report indicates that the first year of the compliance project will address identification of the sources of copper and cyanide coming into the wastewater treatment plant (WWTP). The Seeley WWTP staff is conducting the following tasks: 1) testing septage hauler loads for high levels of copper and cyanide; 2) testing the influent for any levels of copper and cyanide on days while only city water is coming to the WWTP; 3) coordinating with Imperial County Department of Public Health to create a list of trucks or companies who discharge copper and cyanide in high levels; and 4) increasing sampling frequency on effluent for copper and cyanide to determine if high levels detected are due to “plug flow” situations or laboratory error. The sampling results have shown copper and cyanide were present both in the influent and dump station. *[Kai Dunn, Senior WRCE, Ph.D., P.E]*

### Mandatory Minimum Penalty Status

No.	Facility	Violation Description	Assessed Penalty	Settlement Offer Date	Waiver Received Date	Public Notice Issuance Date	Comment Due Date	EO Execution Date	Number of MMPs
1	Calexico WWTP	Bacteria Indicator & Oil/Grease violations	\$6,000	2/13/19	3/12/19	3/13/19	4/11/19		2
2	Holtville WWTP	Oil & Grease, Bis (2-Ethylhexyl)	\$12,000	2/14/19	3/13/19	3/15/19	4/14/19	6/18/19	4
3	Brawley WWTP	Copper & Grease, Bis (2-Ethylhexyl)	\$21,000	2/21/19	3/18/19	3/26/19	4/24/19		7
4	Imperial City WWTP	Copper & Grease, Bis (2-Ethylhexyl)	\$66,000	3/27/19	4/18/19	5/1/19	6/1/19		22
5	Kent SeaTech Fish Farm	Bacteria Indicator & Oil/Grease violations	\$84,000	4/5/19					28
6	Centinela State Prison	Bacteria Indicator Violations	\$33,000	5/10/19					11
			\$222,000						74

### Unaddressed Violations Subject to Mandatory Minimum Penalties (May 2019)

No. of Facilities	No. of Violations
11	106

*[Maribel Jernegan, SEA and Kai Dunn, Senior WRCE, Ph.D., P.E.]*

## BASIN PLAN AND TMDL PROGRAM

**May 23 – 24, 2019 – Environmental Justice Roundtable** : Region 7 staff hosted the Environmental Justice Roundtable, which was organized by the Office of Public Participation and attended by EJ Liaisons from different regional boards and SWRCB divisions, as well as the SWRCB Chair Joaquin Esquivel, Region 7 Executive Officer Paula Rasmussen, and Region 7 Chair Nancy Wright. The field trip portion of the meeting on May 24 was also attended by representatives from CVWD, Riverside County, nonprofit Pueblo Unido, and the media. Aside from the roundtable's regular meeting business, the topic of discussion was Polanco Parks. Moises Moreno-Rivera (and Mecca native) from the Office of Public Participation provided his own personal experience and a brief historical overview of the significance of Polanco Parks. EJ partner Sergio Carranza from Pueblo Unido provided a formal presentation on Polanco Parks – their successes, challenges, and proposed solutions. For the field trip, the attendees were given a tour of the St. Anthony and San Jose Mobile Home Parks in Mecca to look at the water quality challenges at these sites and the successes brought about by a partnership of the residents, local and state agencies, political offices and nonprofit organizations. The knowledge and talent shared over these two days led to fruitful and constructive dialogue and an incredibly successful event. [Maria Davydova, ES.]